

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 11258

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PINS, VS

SUBJECT: TPJMC: GVN EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT PARIS COMMUNIQUE

1. LTG PHAM QUAC THUAN, CHIEF, RVN DELEGATION TO THE TWO PARTY JOING
MILITARY COMMISSION (TPJMC) AND MEMBER OF THE INNER GROUP OF GVN
CEASEFIRE PLANNERS, REVIEWED EFFORTS UNDER WAY IN THE TPJMC FORUM
TO
MAKE PROGRESS WITH THE OTHER SIDE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
CEASEFIRE
UNDER THE TERMS OF THE PARIS COMMUNIQUE IN CONVERSATION WITH
EMBOFFS
JUNE 21.

2. IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 11 (B) REGARDING THE CENTRAL HEAD-
QUARTERS FOR THE TPJMC, THE RVNDEL ON JUNE 18 PRESENTED A SAIGON
CITY MAP TO THE PRGDEL AND OFFERED TO DISCUSS A NEW LOCATION WITHIN
THE CITY PROPER, SEEKING EARLY AGREEMENT ON A SITE WHERE BOTH DELE-
GATIONS (A TOTAL OF 480 PERSONS) COULD SHARE A COMPOUND WITH EQUAL
FACILITIES, SEPARATED BY A WALL AND A CONFERENCE ROOM. THUAN SAID
THE
PRG DID NOT REPLY, BUT " NOTED" THE PROPOSAL. EMBOFFS URGED THAT
THE RVNDEL MAINTAIN THE INITIATIVE BY OFFERING A TOUR OF SUGGESTED
SITES AND OTHER MEASURES TO REEMPT PRG PROPOSALS FOR AN INCON-
VENIENT SITE NEAR VC- CONTROLLED AREAS AND TO PLACE THE BURDEN FOR
UNCOOPERATIVENESS FIRMLY ON THE PRG. WE ALSO SUGGESTED THE GVN
SHOULD PUBLICIZE SUCH POSITIVE FORTHCOMING OFFERS TO ENHANCE AN
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UNDERSTANDING OF GVN POLICIES.

3. THUAN OUTLINED THE MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE OFFER OF THE RVNDEL ON IMPLEMENTING THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE, SAYING THEY SUGGESTED A CEASE-FIRE WITH THE TROOPS STANDING IN THE POSITIONS NOW OCCUPIED AND WITH TPJMC CONTROL TEAMS TO VISIT THESE CEASEFIRE- IN- PLACE POSITIONS TO ENSURE THAT THERE ARE NO VIOLATIONS. THE PRGDEL REJECTED THIS OFFER OF THE RVNDEL.

4. THEN, ACCORDING TO THUAN, THE RVNDEL SAID THAT THEY WOULD ACCEPT THE ELEVEN POINTS OF PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES FOR THE TPJMC DELEGATIONS ON THE CONDITION THAT THE PRG DEPLOY IMMEDIATELY TO THE 26 SITES SPECIFIED IN THE JANUARY CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT. ONCE THE TEAMS ARE IN PLACE, THEY COULD DISCUSS THE ADEQUACY OF THE FACILITIES AND THE TPJMC COULD CONSIDER FURTHER DEPLOYMENTS TO ADDITIONAL SITES

AS MENTIONED IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE; NO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED, SINCE THE PRG INSISTED THEY WOULD DEPLOY ONLY TO THE NEW SITES TO BE DESIGNATED ON THE BORDERS OF AREAS OF CONTROL. THUAN AT THIS POINT EXPLAINED THE BASIC CONFLICT BETWEEN THESE RVN ADN PRG POSITIONS: THE RVNDEL FEELS THAT DESIGNATING NEW SITES FOR DEPLOYMENT DEPENDS UPON DETERMINING THE ZONES OF CONTROL WHICH IN TURN DEPENDS UPON HAVING AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE- IN- PLACE. THUAN ADAMANTLY REITERATED THE NEED TO DEPLOY BEFORE CONSIDERING ZONES OF CONTROLS OR OTHER MATTERS; HE INSISTED THAT: " WITH NO DEPLOYMENT, IT WILL BE HARD TO IMPLEMENT THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE SCRUPULOUSLY."

5. SIMILARLY, WHEN CONSIDERING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PARAGRAPH 6 OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE (ON THE MEETINGS OF FORCE COMMANDERS), THE RVNDEL SAID THAT THERE MUST FIRST BE AN EFFECTIVE CEASEFIRE- IN- PLACE. THE TPJMC COULD THEN AGREE ON MODALITIES, WHICH IN THE VIEW OF THUAN SHOULD START WITH MEETINGS AT THE LEVEL OF DIVISION COMMANDER AND THEN MOVE DOWN THE MILITARY CHAIN OF COMMAND TO THE APPROPRIATE LOWER ECHELONS. THE PRG SAID THEY WOULD " STUDY" THIS PROPOSAL.

EMBOFFS ARGUED THAT THE TERMS OF THE COMMUNIQUE MADE IT CLEAR THAT MEETING SHOULD CONCERN THEMSELVES WITH MAKING LOCAL CEASEFIRES EFFECTIVE AND ENSURING RE- SUPPLY AND MEDEVACS. CITING THE CASE OF TONG LE CHAN, EMBOFFS SUGGESTED THIS AS A CASE WHERE THE RVNDEL COULD PROPOSE A MEETING AT THE DIVISION COMMANDER LEVEL FOR AN IMMEDIATE END TO ATTACKS BY FIRE AND URGENT RE- SUPPLY AND MEDEVAC. THIS WOULD PLACE THE BURDEN OF COMPLIANCE ON THE OTHER SIDE IN AN ATTRACTIVE, HUMANITARIAN CASE. GENERAL THUAN COUNTERED BY

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CLAIMING THE COMMUNISTS DO NOT WANT TO SETTLE THE CEASEFIRE AS A

WHOLE, BUT ONLY WANT A PIECEMEAL SETTLEMENT ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS.
THE RVNDEL, HOWEVER, INSISTS UPON A GENERAL CEASEFIRE- IN- PLACE
PRIOR TO TALKS. IN THE ABSENCE OF THIS, THUAN FEARED THE COMMUNISTS
INTENDED TO PERVERT MEETINGS FOR SINISTER ENDS AND WOULD USE
ANY EXAMPLE, SUCH AS TONG LE CHAN,
TO PROPAGANDIZE LOCAL RVNAF/ RF/ PF TO RELAX THEIR VIGILANCE.

6. CONVERSATION ALSO COVERED INVITATION TO RED CROSS SOCIETIES (PARA
8/ C) AND PROBLEMS ARISING IN CONNECTION WITH FPJMT LIAISON FLIGHTS
TO HANOI (PARA 8/ E), REPORTED SEPARATELY.

COMMENT: NINETY MINUTE CONVERSATION REVEALS THAT HARD- LINING
GENERAL
THUAN REMAINS CONVINCED THAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE SEEKING TO TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF EVERY CONCESSION WRUNG FROM THE RVNDEL (OFTEN,
AS HE SEES
IT, UNDER USG PRESSURE), WHILE HE SEES NO EVIDENCE THAT THE
COMMUNISTS ARE PREPARED TO MAKE ANY COMPROMISE OR TO NEGOTIATE
IN GOOD FAITH. FOR THIS REASON, THUAN KEPT RETURNING TO THE
APPARENTLY

NON- NEGOTIABLE GVN POSITION THAT THERE MUST FIRST BE A GENERAL
CEASEFIRE- IN- PLACE WITH SOME DEPLOYMENT OF TPJMC CONTROL TEAMS
PRIOR TO FURTHER ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE.
OTHERWISE, AS THUAN DESCRIBED IT, " YOU CONCEDE TO THE PRG ON ONE
POINT AND THEY PUT IT IN THEIR POCKET AND MAKE A NEW DEMAND ON
ANOTHER POINT." THUAN SPECULATED ALOUD THAT A PEACE AGREEMENT
COULD NOT BE REALIZED IN SOUTH VIETNAM BECAUSE THE TWO SIDES
CANNOT ACHIEVE A BALANCE OF POWER. THUAN SAID:" ONE SIDE MUST
DESTROY THE OTHER."
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